

Hilcott Village Hall Trust



CHARITY NO 285257

Update to Parishioners of North Newton Parish

January 2023

We were delighted to have a visit from a National Lottery Funding Officer on 28 October when we showed her the two sites in Hilcott and then had a desktop discussion re our bid for funding to the National Lottery Community Fund. She advised joining the two sites together as a combined project for the purposes of grant funding, and to this end there are 3 phases ie Phase 1: Demolition: already achieved but evidence of costs needed Phase 2: Barnard Meadow: to show that we are proactive in obtaining grants and funds. This will give more weight when applying for funds for Phase 3: Village Hall rebuild.

The National Lottery is only considering applications up to £150000 for building projects so we would have to obtain matched funding for the rest. The Funding Officer has paused our current grant application until we are in a stronger position to submit further information and plans eg pulling together copies of previous years' accounts and annual reports so that they are available for funders to view, which can include any work completed to date and the funds that have been used to undertake this work. We already have some resources "in the pot" and can show evidence of past grants and funding as above.

Since 2019 when the really sorry state of the hall was uncovered, we have had support from parishioners, volunteers and friends, and funding support and donations from PAB, NNPC, Community First, Local Giving and others. Further clearance work at Barnard Meadow will recommence soon with the aim to have sufficient overgrowth cleared by the time the nesting season starts (RSPB normally reckon towards the end of March). To date clearance parties have been active during the week, but it is hoped to extend this to cover some weekend slots. So if you would like to join the wonderful team of volunteers please contact Mac (macjmclean@gmail.com).